**EULOGY SPEECH**

**FOR**

**CHEN HALPERIN**

I want to thank all of you for being here as we take some time to remember my mother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. There’s an old proverb that teaches us, “God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers.” It’s also been said that the only thing that heals our hearts after the loss of one’s mother is time. It’s too soon to think about that, but I am hoping, in time, the memories we share today and from now on will work to keep her spirit and wisdom alive for all of us.

There really are not enough words to describe how wonderful my mother was, and no words... at least that I have found, can adequately express the gratitude I feel for the love, thoughtfulness, wisdom, and care she so generously gave as she raised all of us. She did her best to teach me to be to be a thoughtful, loving, respectful person, and I can only hope that her legacy lives on in the powerful and supportive relationships I have because she took the time to nurture me... and all of her children.

Family meant everything to my mother. She was a dutiful daughter to her parents, a loving sibling to her brothers, and a compassionate, giving, caring friend to all that were blessed to know her. She gave her heart and soul to her children, and my brothers, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are so grateful that even, and **ESPECIALLY** as a single mother, we were blessed to have a mother that was determined to see to it that we grew up to be productive, successful, compassionate adults. And her caring didn’t stop with us...she helped raise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ grandchildren (**name them**), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. She had a way about her, and even on her limited budget, she managed to shower all of her grandchildren with gifts to honor Christmas and all of the big moments and special occasions in life. In our sorrow, I know we **ALL** find comfort in knowing her sweetness and caring will continue to inspire the next generations.

She was so special to all of us and always showed genuine concern for her neighbors and those around her. I will never forget one time, when she was younger... and we were **REALLY** young, she did whatever possible to help her desperate and elderly friend find a good nursing home. She was courageous when it came to facing her own problems as well.

Our mother was positive, forgiving, and optimistic, and made sure we learned those life lessons too. If I would ever come to her with a complaint or a negative thought, she would advise me to appreciate life.... **EVERY** aspect of it. She taught me to not take anything for granted. And no matter what, it was not in her nature to hold grudges or to tolerate them in others.

She was also a person who truly believed in sharing and literally helping to ease the loads of others. Even when she was well into her 90’s, she was happy to help with household chores and activities, and she made sure she did the laundry and made her special recipes, like her delicious dumplings. She pushed herself until the very end... until she was too ill to get up... because as we know, the happiness and contentment of others was what she lived for.

Our mother was also courageous.... and she was tested throughout her life. She faced three major illnesses, but through each crisis, she maintained her optimism and humor. In 2009, she battled colon cancer... with her typical disposition and humor. I remember that I often heard her laughing loudly while she listened to her favorite comedy show on the radio. She always showed us how she appreciated life and even til the end, she managed to find something to smile about, even in the most critical situations. Even towards the end, a few weeks ago, when we knew she was in pain, she was pleasant and joked around with the nurses that cared for her in the hospital. As we took turns caring for her at home, no matter what, she showed consideration that betrayed how sick she really was. She checked on us and would always ask if we needed to go home and rest.

I am so blessed to have had the mother I had, and it was an added blessing to have had her with us as long as we did. If I had to think of something I wished I did differently, it would be this: I remember, before she got sick, I had been ill for about four years. In that time, while I was concentrating on my own recovery, I did not realize what time was doing to her. She had become a different person... one that was frail and who had deteriorated to the point that she could no longer walk or do her usual daily activities. She began to lose her short term memory as well. In spite of my efforts to nourish her and build her up, it was too late. The truth that we were to discover was that she was waging her final battle with cancer.... and we were not aware. After sixteen days in the hospital ,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ passed, leaving a legacy for all of us who loved her so much. In the end, she was surrounded by her family and the love of her children and grandchildren was a constant presence. She left this world loved and respected, and though she will be missed forever, she will live on as we proceed with our lives in her honor and memory.... we will be positive and courageous, respectful and humble... we will laugh when we think of the joy she got from her children and grandchildren, and we will remember her talents when we taste dumplings made from her very own recipe.... they probably will not taste as good, but they will be a sweet and loving reminder of the woman that meant so much to us. Thank you.